IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: Marc Francis Vincent DUSSAC, et al.

Application No.: New PCT National Stage Application

Filed: November 29, 2001

For: DAMPING STRUCTURE AND APPLICATIONS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

4. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

5. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

6. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

7. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

8. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it additionally comprises at least one internal partition (13) which is arranged inside said internal cavity (2).

10. (Amended) The damping structured as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially solid.

11. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially pierced.

12. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

13. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinion.

16. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said structure (1) is elongate and in that said internal cavity (2) is formed longitudinally inside said elongate structure (1).

17. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

18. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

19. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

20. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

21. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

22. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said internal partition (13) has a tubular shape.

23. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said internal partition (13) is at least partially solid.

24. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

25. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinon.

28. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26,

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

29. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

30. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

31. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

32. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

33. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that it additionally comprises at least one internal partition (13) which is arranged inside said internal cavity (2).

35. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 32, characterized in that said internal partition (13) is at least partially solid.

36. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in one of claim 32,

characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially pierced.

37. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

38. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that said means (10) for closing off said internal cavity (2) comprise a rigid plate (11) which is constrained by an elastic element (12).

39. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in claim 26, characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinion.

41. (Amended) The suspension system as claimed in claim 40, characterized in that at least one of said suspension bars (15) comprises a damping structure (1) as specified in claim 1.

42. (Amended) A device for damping the vibrations of a vibrating component mounted on a support,
characterized in that it comprises a damping structure (1) as specified in claim 1, which is arranged between said vibrating component (BTP) and said support (17).

43. (Amended) A device for damping the vibrations of a vibrating component comprising at least one hollow element, characterized in that said hollow element (15) is produced in the form of a damping structure (1) as specified in claim 1.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 3-8, 10-13, 16-25, 28-33, 35-39, and 41-43 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT I (MARKED-UP VERSION)

3. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [either] claim 1[or 2],

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

4. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

5. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

6. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

7. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

8. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,

characterized in that it additionally comprises at least one internal partition (13) which is arranged inside said internal cavity (2).

10. (Amended) The damping structured as claimed in [either] claim 8 [or 9],
characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially solid.

11. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 8 [to 10],
characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially pierced.

12. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,
characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

13. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of the preceding] claim[s] 1,
characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinion.

16. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [either] claim 14 [or 15],
characterized in that said structure (1) is elongate and in that said internal cavity (2) is formed longitudinally inside said elongate structure (1).

17. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 16],

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

18. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 17],

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

19. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 18],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

20. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 19],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

21. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 21],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

22. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 21],

characterized in that said internal partition (13) has a tubular shape.

23. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 22],

characterized in that said internal partition (13) is at least partially solid.

24. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 23],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

25.(Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 14 [to 24],

characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinon.

28. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [either] claim 26 [or 27],

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are hollow.

29. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 28],

characterized in that at least some of said solid bodies (9) are compact.

30. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 29],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9A, 9B) made of different materials.

31. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 30],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different shapes.

32. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 31],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) comprises solid bodies (9C, 9D, 9E, 9F) of different sizes.

33. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 32],

characterized in that it additionally comprises at least one internal partition (13) which is arranged inside said internal cavity (2).

35. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [either] claim 32 [or 33],

characterized in that said internal partition (13) is at least partially solid.

36. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in one of claim[s] 32 [to 35],

characterized in that said internal partition (13) is as least partially pierced.

37. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 36],

characterized in that said aggregate (8) additionally comprises a viscous liquid filling the spaces between said solid bodies (9).

38. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 37],
characterized in that said means (10) for closing off said internal cavity (2) comprise a rigid plate (11) which is constrained by an elastic element (12).

39. (Amended) The damping structure as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 26 [to 38],
characterized in that it is produced in the form of a pinion.

41. (Amended) The suspension system as claimed in claim 40, characterized in that at least one of said suspension bars (15) comprises a damping structure (1) as specified in [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 39].

42. (Amended) A device for damping the vibrations of a vibrating component mounted on a support,
characterized in that it comprises a damping structure (1) as specified in [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 39], which is arranged between said vibrating component (BTP) and said support (17).

43. (Amended) A device for damping the vibrations of a vibrating component comprising at least one hollow element,
characterized in that said hollow element (15) is produced in the form of a damping structure (1) as specified in [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 39].